

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to compel their franchise stations to air a documentary that strongly criticizes John Kerry only days before the election is a brazen example of the dangers which media consolidation has been bringing to the country.

Sinclair enjoys free use of public airwaves. In return it is obligated by statute to serve the public interest. When large companies dominate the airwaves, we move toward a corporatist state, tout court. We also get canned vegetables, mislabeled in many cases, rather than local organic produce. Need I observe that such a diet is unhealthy?

Sinclair demonstrates the need to improve media ownership rules, not dilute them so that deregulation and consolidation are encouraged. License renewals for stations need to matter to those seeking them for the same reasons that they matter to citizens. Thank you for your attention.